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**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons
and humanitarian questions**

**Letter dated 13 January 2005 from the Permanent Representative
of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the resolution, the Plan of Action and the Commitment to Cooperation and Coordination adopted at the 6th Pan-African Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, held in Algiers from 6 to 13 September 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 103, entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

(Signed) Abdallah Baali
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 13 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

ALGIERS RESOLUTION

1. The 6th Pan African Conference held in Algiers, Algeria from 8-13 September 2004, under the theme **'Consolidating our Red Cross and Red Crescent role as a reliable and an effective civil society partner'**,
2. Recalls the Ouagadougou Declaration adopted at the 5th Pan African Conference;
3. Recommits to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles as important values in the preservation of life and human dignity;
4. Expresses great concern in the increase of natural disasters and conflicts and the huge crisis of food insecurity, HIV/AIDS and growing health threats facing the Continent;
5. Recognises the progress made in implementing the Ouagadougou Declaration;
6. Confirms the continued relevance of the Ouagadougou Declaration and acknowledges the need for an ongoing Pan African implementation, monitoring and evaluation support mechanism;
7. Reaffirms the importance of National Societies working within the framework of the Movement Strategy and Strategy 2010;
8. Notes with appreciation the outcomes of the Resource Mobilisation, Social Mobilisation and Strategic Partnership commissions;
9. Acknowledges the Commitment to Cooperation and Coordination which represents an effort to build a strong Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
10. Recognises and supports the development of a strong International Federation Secretariat in the field;
11. Reaffirms the strategic role of volunteers as being the foundation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Africa and commits to strengthening volunteerism;

12. Expresses its concern with the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan and states its solidarity with and respect for the efforts of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society;
13. Acknowledges that well functioning National Societies are an important precondition for improving the lives of the most vulnerable;
14. Adopts and commits to implementing the Algiers Plan of Action, creates a Pan African Coordinator Team (PACT) to monitor the implementation to fully realise the Ouagadougou Declaration, contribute to the Millennium Development Goals and the key interventions agreed to;
15. Appreciates the presence of and partnership with African governments, the African Union, civil society partners, corporate partners, the United Nations agencies, the ICRC, partner National Societies, the Standing Commission and the International Federation Secretariat;

The 6th Pan African Conference held in Algiers, Algeria from 8-13 September, under the theme *consolidating the role of RCRC as a reliable civil society partner in Africa*,

Notes the success of the 6th Pan-African Conference;

Expresses sincere thanks to the Algerian Government, the volunteers and staff of the Algerian Red Crescent Society for their special kindness, hospitality and commitment to the success of the 6th Pan African Conference.

October 2004

ALGIERS PLAN OF ACTION

Under the theme '**Consolidating our Red Cross and Red Crescent role as a reliable and an effective civil society partner**', the 6th Pan African Conference was held in Algiers, Algeria in September 2004. Fifty Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies from Africa attended.

The African National Societies resolved to lead their Societies through processes which are transparent, credible and accountable.

The African Societies decided that they will take ownership and lead the process of managing the support for the key issues facing the most vulnerable in Africa.

The African Societies reaffirmed that much more can be achieved if they foster and enhance partnerships both in country and internationally.

The Conference reaffirmed the commitments made in the Ouagadougou Declaration and acknowledged them as still being relevant to the major challenges facing the continent.

The commitments are in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its humanitarian mission. At the Ouagadougou conference, African National Societies committed to:

1. Making a major difference to the health of vulnerable people in Africa by adopting and implementing the ARCHI 2010¹ strategy.
2. Responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic as an unprecedented humanitarian and development disaster in Africa, by massively scaling up their response in terms of advocacy, prevention, care and mitigation.
3. Making food security a strategic priority for this decade, recognizing that food security is directly linked to a number of root causes, including poverty, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the worsening debt crisis and armed conflict.
4. Building up National Societies capacities for improved management, coaching and support of their volunteers and branch networks.

The conference acknowledged the achievements and constraints in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration and committed to the Algiers Plan of Action. This plan stays within the framework of the International Federation's Strategy 2010, the Strategy for the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and the Agenda for Humanitarian Action of the 28th International Conference.

African National Societies and their partners also pledged to actively continue to engage with vulnerable communities and improve lives by mobilising the power of humanity. Strategy 2010

¹ ARCHI2010 – African Red Cross/Red Crescent Health Initiative until 2010

provides the framework for the basis of our work, with implementation focused through the following core areas:

- Promotion of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values;
- Disaster Response;
- Disaster Preparedness;
- Health and Care in the communities.

Considering the developments since Ouagadougou, the National Societies reaffirmed their commitment to partnerships with their governments, based on their auxiliary role with regards to humanitarian services. The National Societies will further engage their governments to define the specific roles of Red Cross and Red Crescent in disaster management and the respect for their impartiality and independence. African National Societies also committed themselves to work towards supporting the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.

The National Societies reaffirmed the following key interventions and decided to pursue them with renewed commitment, vigour and focus, to be implemented within the next four years:

- Food Security
- Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Institutional capacity building as a cross-cutting issue

National Societies commit to work in an integrated way to achieve the following objectives;

Key Intervention 1: FOOD SECURITY

Objective

To significantly contribute to the reduction of food insecurity of populations made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, using and developing the knowledge available with the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, coping mechanisms of communities and working in partnerships.

Expected Results

- National Society food security strategies and plans developed and implemented,
- Food security programmes that reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and disasters implemented,
- National Society human, financial and technical capacity to undertake food security programmes developed,
- Relevant food security partnerships at local, regional, and international levels within and external to the Movement developed.

Key Intervention 2: HIV/AIDS

Objective 1.

To significantly contribute to the reduction of the spread of HIV infection among the general population in the operation areas through educating the community, fighting stigma and discrimination and expanding the provision and use of protective means.

Expected results:

- a. Communities in the project areas acquired knowledge on the basic facts of HIV/Aids.
- b. Significant change in attitude and behaviour of the communities in project areas,
- c. Significant reduction in the prevalence rate of new HIV infections in project areas,
- d. Reduction of stigma and discrimination,
- e. Greater involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA).

Objective 2

To increase access of antiretroviral treatment for PLWHA by supporting the efforts of governments in the roll out of Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) through mobilizing and preparing communities for treatment, promoting adherence based on home based care approach, reducing stigma and discrimination, facilitating care and treatment, providing psycho-social support, promoting of locally available nutritious food and encouraging the use of local proven traditional knowledge and medicine.

Expected results:

- a. Increased level of community preparedness on ART treatment,
- b. Significant number of PLWHA in the operation areas receiving ART,
- c. Adherence to ART and Tuberculosis treatment equal or more than 90 %,
- d. The quality of life of PLWHA improved,
- e. Scale up home based care program.

Objective 3:

To provide psycho-social support to Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in the project areas

Expected results:

- a. Registration of OVC through home based care program
- b. School age OVC in the project areas attending school
- c. Communities' traditional coping mechanism strengthened to care for orphans.

Key Intervention 3: HEALTH

Objective:

To significantly contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality in vulnerable populations and in emergency situations through implementation of prevention and care activities.

Expected results:

- a. National Societies define health and care priorities and work with partners,
- b. National Societies with the involvement of their communities and volunteers improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable,
- c. National Society human, financial and technical capacity to undertake health programmes developed.

The Algiers Plan of Action will be achieved through integrated programming focusing on the following strategies:

Resource mobilisation

- Build capacity to engage the public and private sectors
- Map current capacities of the societies and measure progress periodically
- Ensure good governance and management for better service delivery and to attract resources
- Better profile our work through communication
- Agreed strategy for advocacy and policy dialogue at national, regional and global level
- Establish a mechanism for sharing best practices in resource mobilization
- Utilise capacities in National Societies and in the communities and supplement it with resources from within and outside the Movement
- Develop operational plan for resourcing the plan of action at regional and country levels.
- Exert maximum effort to access resources from national and international funding pools such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the Consolidated Appeal (CAP) and the (US) President's Emergency Plan for AIDS (PEPFAR).

Social mobilisation

- Critically look at traditional coping mechanism in food insecurity, voluntarism and sharing best practices in social mobilization
- Manage volunteers as a valuable resource
- Establish mechanism to include volunteers in decision making processes
- Review, further develop and implement volunteer management policies
- Encourage governments to include and support Red Cross Red Crescent volunteerism in the school systems
- Engage the community in all aspects of programme design and implementation
- Work with existing community structures (women associations, youth groups, religious organizations) for effective mobilization of the community
- Develop the skills of the volunteers in communicating messages to the community.

Strategic partnerships

- Assess institutional capacities and engage partners
- Make partnership building a high priority effort to fight diseases and poverty
- Use partnerships to increase capacities at all levels (national, district, community)
- Create an Africa wide Red Cross and Red Crescent partnership
- Involve volunteers and vulnerable communities as partners in the planning, implementation and evaluation of prevention, emergency and health promotion activities
- Engage and dialogue to get government to provide access to antiretroviral treatment and the development of structures to deliver them.

Implementation Roles

1. Role of National Societies

- Update National Society Strategic Plans within the next six months taking in to account the guidance and key interventions, strategies in the plan of action
- Further implement community based programs to achieve key interventions
- Strengthen existing networks and develop new networks to share successful experience and support each other
- Report annually on the progress made.

2. Role of the Federation Secretariat

- Prepare Best Practice Guidelines detailing best operational practices and procedures
- Keep National Societies informed of changes, trends, policies and other relevant information
- Highlight the plight of the vulnerable populations we serve
- Improve co-ordination, co-operation and communication between and within National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC
- Assist African National Societies to design, implement, monitor and evaluate programmes
- Assist in Resource Mobilisation.

3. Role of the Pan African Steering Committee

- The Committee is comprised of African members of the Federation's Governing Board, the hosts of the current and future Pan African Conference.
- The role is to provide overall guidance to the implementation and to assess the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Plan of Action.
- The Pan African Coordination Team (PACT) submits the monitoring reports to the Steering Committee.

4. Role of Pan African Coordination Team (PACT)

- The implementation plan will be supported and monitored by the 6th Pan African Coordination Team (PACT) composed of a group of experts representing:
 - ✓ African National Societies: five, one from each region (southern, western, central, eastern, northern)
 - ✓ Participating National Societies: one
 - ✓ Corporate Partner: one
 - ✓ Multilateral Partner (United Nations, etc.): one
- The PACT will provide feedback to the Pan African Steering Committee
- The PACT reports will be shared with all African National Societies.
- The PACT shall be provided technical support from Federation Secretariat.

The Algiers Plan of Action comes with a Resolution and as Annex, the Commitment to Cooperation and Coordination.

Annex

The Commitment to Cooperation and Coordination

At a meeting recently held in Algiers between some African National Societies and some Partner National Societies, the following concerns were expressed:

- (i) The limited response by the Movement to the increasing humanitarian needs in Africa.
- (ii) The capacities of Africa National Societies including issues of:
 - good governance, transparency and accountability in all their activities;
 - relationships with governments, partners and other stakeholders.
- (iii) The challenges currently facing the International Federation.

The African National Societies expressed their determination to take charge of responding to the humanitarian crises in their respective countries and to redefine their vision and relations with their governments and other stakeholders.

This Commitment to Cooperation and Coordination is intended to rekindle a spirit of partnership in Africa. It recognises the decisions and commitments of the statutory bodies of the Movement. It is inspired by the Johannesburg communiqué that was shared with both African National Societies and Partner National Societies attending the 6th Pan-African Conference. The Johannesburg meeting resolved to establish the New Partnership for African Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (NEPARC).

Both African National Societies and Partner National Societies commit to continuing the implementation of the Strategy 2010, the Ouagadougou Commitments and the Algiers Plan of Action. African National Societies and Partner National Societies recognise the need to do more to maximise the potential of the Movement to serve vulnerable people in Africa. We are therefore jointly committing ourselves to the following:

1. Implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration and the Algiers Plan of Action,
2. Promoting good partnership in Africa by:
 - Recognising that the needs of vulnerable people are paramount;
 - Accepting and confirming the mandate and role of African National Societies in their own countries;
 - Mutual accountability;
 - Transparency;
 - Mutual trust, respect and inclusiveness within the framework of the Fundamental Principles;
 - Continuing an open and honest dialogue;
 - Developing a stronger Federation supported by an effective Secretariat.

The Algiers Joint Commitment represents a point of departure. The African National Societies and the Partner National Societies jointly recognise the importance of a strong Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, to which they commit their active support.

To achieve this, all parties will re-examine their working modalities within their respective organisations and in the context of broader formal and informal consultation groups.

12 September 2004, Algiers, Algeria